

sheep and lambs on feed

EARLY LAMB CROP



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March 1, 1973

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED--DOWN 7 PERCENT

Sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter market in the 7 major feeding States on March 1 totaled 941,000 head, 7 percent less than a year earlier. There were 1,017,000 sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 States in the spring of 1972. Only California showed an increase in the number on feed compared with a year ago.

In Texas, many lambs on fattening pastures January 1 and intended for slaughter in January-March have been moved to feedlots. These lambs are not included in January-February placements.

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Sheep and lambs on feed: Number, weight groups, placements and marketings

Item	7 States 1/			:1973 as % : of 1972
	: 1971	: 1972	: 1973	
	1,000 head			Percent
Sheep and lambs on feed, March 1	: 908	1,017	941	93
Weight groups, March 1				
Under 70 pounds	: 73	57	74	130
70-79 pounds	: 107	106	104	98
80-89 pounds	: 201	247	209	85
90-99 pounds	: 321	404	320	79
100 pounds and over	: 206	203	234	115
Sheep and lambs placed on feed, January 1 - February 28 2/	: 369	323	311	96
Fed sheep and lambs marketed, January 1 - February 28 2/	: 920	895	911	102
Sheep and lambs on feed, January 1	: 1,459	1,589	1,541	97

1/ 7 States listed in tables on page 2. 2/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed: Number, placements and marketings,
specified dates, 1971-73 1/

State	1971				1972			
	No. on feed	Placed during	Marketed during	No. on feed	No. on feed	Placed during	Marketed during	No. on feed
	Jan. 1	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Mar. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Mar. 1
	1,000 head							
Iowa	179	52	127	104	179	60	130	109
S. Dak.	149	24	115	58	150	20	117	53
Nebr.	162	23	110	75	162	22	92	92
Kans.	75	11	36	50	97	3	23	77
Texas	279	115	167	227	399	15	153	261
Colo.	500	130	300	330	500	190	320	370
Calif.	115	14	65	64	102	13	60	55
Total								
7 States	1,459	369	920	908	1,589	323	895	1,017

State	1973				Mar. 1, 1973	
	No. on feed	Placed during	Marketed during	No. on feed	No. on feed	
	Jan. 1	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Jan. & Feb. 2/	Mar. 1	as % of Mar. 1, 1972	
	1,000 head				Percent	
Iowa	165	56	121	100	92	
S. Dak.	130	28	105	53	100	
Nebr.	170	14	104	80	87	
Kans.	104	2	41	65	84	
Texas	339	33	135	237	91	
Colo.	530	165	365	330	89	
Calif.	103	13	40	76	138	
Total						
7 States	1,541	311	911	941	93	

1/ Sheep and lambs on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain, other concentrates or succulent pastures and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

2/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed: By weight groups, March 1

State	Under 70 pounds			70-79 pounds		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	1,000 head					
Iowa	8	11	10	14	13	9
S. Dak.	3	4	4	8	9	8
Nebr.	3	7	12	5	11	12
Kans.		5	1	3	3	4
Texas	57	26	45	59	55	62
Colo.	1	1	1	16	10	7
Calif.	1	3	1	2	5	2
Total 7 States	73	57	74	107	106	104

State	80-89 pounds			90-99 pounds			100 pounds and over		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	1,000 head								
Iowa	30	33	27	30	37	39	22	15	15
S. Dak.	12	9	8	20	22	20	15	9	13
Nebr.	22	17	18	32	37	24	13	20	14
Kans.	13	14	21	23	40	34	11	15	5
Texas	77	107	61	27	64	45	7	9	24
Colo.	40	63	68	165	189	135	108	107	119
Calif.	7	4	6	24	15	23	30	28	44
Total 7 States	201	247	209	321	404	320	206	203	234

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Sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States totaled 311,000 head, down 4 percent. Marketings of fed sheep and lambs for slaughter during January and February totaled 911,000 head, up 2 percent from the same period of 1972.

The number on feed in each weight group and the change from March 1, 1972, are as follows: Under 70 pounds - 74,000 head, up 17,000 head; 70-79 pounds - 104,000, down 2,000; 80-89 pounds - 209,000, down 38,000; 90-99 pounds - 320,000, down 84,000; 100 pounds and over - 234,000, up 31,000.

EARLY LAMB CROP 1973

The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas and California totaled 1,831,000 head, down 4 percent from a year ago.

KANSAS: The number of early lambs in Kansas is estimated at 165,000 head, 6 percent less than the 176,000 head in 1972. Breeding ewes were down 6 percent from a year ago. Wet weather hampered grazing and lambing. Some cases of severe death loss were reported.

TEXAS: The early lamb crop in Texas this year totaled 970,000 head, down 4 percent from last year's 1,012,000 head. The January 1 inventory of ewes one year old and older was down 9 percent. Lambing is reported to be ahead of last year.

CALIFORNIA: California's early lamb crop is estimated at 696,000 head, down 3 percent from the 716,000 head dropped a year earlier. Breeding ewes decreased 6 percent from a year ago. Lambing conditions were not favorable due to wet weather but few unusual losses of lambs were reported. Grazing has been limited to alfalfa and grain stubble due to slow pasture growth.

Number Early Lambs March 1 1/

State	1971	1972	1973	1973
	1,000 head			as % of 1972
Kansas	180	176	165	94
Texas	1,370	1,012	970	96
California	813	716	696	97
Total 3 States	2,363	1,904	1,831	96

1/ In Kansas and Texas early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between October 1 and March 1. In California, early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between September 1 and March 1.